

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 39-42 and 44-46 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1-26 (Previously cancelled).

27. (Previously presented) A feed supplement comprising at least one selected from a lactic acid bacterium belonging to *Lactobacillus gasseri*, a crushed product of the lactic acid bacterium, a culture of the lactic acid bacterium, a residue of the culture of the lactic acid bacterium, and a treated product thereof.

28. (Previously presented) The feed supplement according to claim 27, wherein the culture of the lactic acid bacterium is a culture obtainable by inoculating the lactic acid bacterium to a medium containing a whey protein derivative, followed by neutralization culturing.

29. (Previously presented) The feed supplement according to claim 28, wherein the whey protein derivative is at least one selected from a whey protein concentrate (WPC), a whey protein isolate (WPI) and a hydrolysate thereof.

30. (Previously presented) The feed supplement according to claim 27, wherein the treated product is at least one selected from a concentrate, a pasted product, a dried product, a liquid product, a diluted product and a sterilized product.

31. (Previously presented) The feed supplement according to claim 28, wherein the treated product is at least one selected from a concentrate, a pasted product, a dried product, a liquid product, a diluted product and a sterilized product.

32. (Previously presented) The feed supplement according to claim 29, wherein the treated product is at least one selected from a concentrate, a pasted product, a dried product, a liquid product, a diluted product and a sterilized product.

33. (Previously presented) The feed supplement according to claim 30, wherein the dried product is at least one selected from a spray-dried product, a freeze-dried product, a vacuum-dried product and a drum-dried product.

34. (Previously presented) The feed supplement according to claim 31, wherein the dried product is at least one selected from a spray-dried product, a freeze-dried product, a vacuum-dried product and a drum-dried product.

35. (Previously presented) The feed supplement according to claim 32, wherein the dried product is at least one selected from a spray-dried product, a freeze-dried product, a vacuum-dried product and a drum-dried product.

36. (Previously presented) The feed supplement according to claim 27, which further comprises an excipient.

37. (Previously presented) The feed supplement according to claim 36, wherein the excipient is at least one selected from a starch, a dextrin, a milk component, and a silicic acid.

38. (Previously presented) The feed supplement according to claim 27, wherein the lactic acid bacterium is *Lactobacillus gasseri* OLL 2716 (FERM BP-6999).

39. (Canceled) A feed composition comprising the feed supplement according to claim 27 and a feed.

40. (Canceled) A feed composition comprising the feed supplement according to any one of claims 38 and a feed.

41. (Canceled) The feed composition according to claim 39, wherein the feed is at least one selected from a substitute milk, an artificial milk or a starter.

42. (Canceled) The feed composition according to claim 40, wherein the feed is at least one selected from a substitute milk, an artificial milk or a starter.

43. (Previously presented) A method of improving an intestinal flora, which comprises administering an effective amount of the feed supplement according to claim 27 to a livestock.

44. (Canceled) A method of preventing a diarrhea, which comprises administering an effective amount of the feed supplement according to claim 27 to a livestock.

45. (Canceled) A method of enhancing an antioxidant ability, which comprises administering an effective amount of the feed supplement according to claim 27 to a livestock.

46. (Canceled) A method of increasing a weight, which comprises administering an effective amount of the feed supplement according to claim 27 to a livestock.

47. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~any one of claims 43 to 46~~ claim 43, wherein the livestock is a young livestock during a period of from afterbirth to a weaning stage.

48. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 47, wherein the young livestock is a calf.